

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appl.No.: 10/025,531
Appellant: Estevez et al
Filed: December 19, 2001
TC/AU: 2621
Examiner: Alavi

Confirmation No.: 6204

Docket: TI-31793
Cust.No.: 23494

APPELLANTS' BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The attached sheets contain the Rule 41.37 items of appellants' brief. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee for filing a brief in support of the appeal plus any other necessary fees to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rule 41.37(c)(1)(i) Real party of interest

Texas Instruments Incorporated owns the application.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(ii) Related appeals and interferences

There are no related dispositive appeals or interferences.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(iii) Status of claims

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application with claims 4-5 withdrawn and claims 1-3 finally rejected. This appeal involves the finally rejected claims.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(iv) Status of amendments

There is no amendment after final rejection.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(v) Summary of claimed subject matter

Claim 1 provides a method of block-based image coding with a strip of blocks of the image compared to a corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image, and when the current strip of blocks approximates those of the corresponding prior strip, encoding the current strip as the corresponding prior strip. Figure 1 illustrates the method with the prior image on the left, and the current image on the right; and application page 3, first paragraph notes that a strip of blocks can be several rows of blocks, a single row of blocks, or part of a row of blocks.

Dependent claims 2 and 3 cover the preferred embodiment section 2 on pages 3-4 with the approximation by DC coefficients of DCT transforms of blocks and JPEG encoding of blocks of non-approximate strips.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(vi) Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal

The grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal are:

(1) claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated by the MacCormack reference.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(vii) Arguments

(1) Claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated by MacCormack; the Examiner pointed to the MCU of MacCormack as a strip of blocks and stated that the six blocks of an MCU constitute “a row of blocks”.

Appellants reply that independent claim 1 requires a strip of blocks which includes “an entire row of blocks” (emphasis added). In contrast, MacCormack treats each MCU (which corresponds roughly to a macroblock) separately; and the superblocks of column 11, line 29 to column 12, line 9 and Figs.14-16 are downsampled to look like 8x8 blocks and not strips. Contrary to the Examiner, the claimed strip including an entire row of blocks would mean to one of ordinary skill in the art all of the blocks in row extending across an image. Consequently, MacCormack does not suggest claim 1, and claim 1 plus its dependent claims 2-3 are patentable over MacCormack.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(viii) Claims appendix

1. A method of image compression, comprising:

(a) comparing blocks of pixels in a strip of blocks in an input image to corresponding blocks of pixels in a corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image with said strip including an entire row of blocks;

(b) encoding said strip of blocks of an input image as said corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image when said comparing of step (a) indicates said strip approximates said corresponding strip.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said comparing of step (a) of claim 1 includes comparing to a threshold the difference between DC coefficients of each of the blocks of said strip and DC coefficients of each of the blocks of said corresponding strip.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) encoding said strip of blocks of an input image of step (a) of claim 1 by JPEG encoding when said comparing of step (a) indicates said strip fails to approximate said corresponding strip.

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(ix) Evidence appendix

n/a

Rule 41.37(c)(1)(x) Related proceedings appendix

n/a